

THE JACOBS REPORT
GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2006

Contact: Matt Levin
(517) 373-7888

NEW CURRICULUM ADVANCES

Compromise Product to Governor

This week, the Legislature sent the governor two bills that would increase high school graduation requirements.

The Senate unanimously passed HB 5606 and SB 1124 when they emerged from conference committee. The resulting product is a compromise between the House and Senate, with input from the governor. Four credits in math and English are required, three credits in science and social studies, and one credit in physical education and the arts. Beginning in 2016 (when the minimum amount of core credits increases from 16 to 18), students will also need two foreign language credits to graduate.

The new 16 credit requirements will begin with the graduating class of 2011. Algebra II is required, although students can opt out under certain circumstances.

Governor Granholm was supportive of the Legislature's work. "When we hold our kids to high standards, they will do great things," she said. "This new curriculum will help give Michigan the best educated workforce in the nation and bring new jobs and new investment to our state."

JACOBS RECRUITS MATH & SCIENCE TEACHERS

New Legislation Targets Teacher Shortage

Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs introduced legislation (SB1201) that would create the Capital Target Education Act to establish a student loan forgiveness program for new math and science teachers. The program would address the increased demand for math and science teachers created by the recently approved curriculum standards.

"Michigan has a math and science teacher shortage," Jacobs said. "Our new curriculum standards will exacerbate this problem if we don't act. We need 21st Century solutions, and I will be recruiting private interests to help fund this very important program."

The Capital Target Education Act would be administered by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority.

To qualify for a grant to defray loan expenses, individuals must have graduated in the top 25 percent of their class between 2008 and 2018; be a legal resident teaching full time in Michigan; and not previously defaulted or be currently in default on a student loan. In addition, applicants must have obtained and continued employment as a full-time high school teacher after the

effective date of this act; be endorsed or certified in math and/or science; submit a grant application to the authority; and meet any other requirements established by the authority

The authority would award a portion of the grant in an amount equal to 10 percent of that eligible debt in each consecutive year teaching in Michigan. Eligible debt would include all unpaid federal and state student loans obtained by an individual during his/her first five years enrolled in a teacher education program at a public or private college or university or community college up to a total of \$25,000.

Each individual accepting a grant from the authority will be required to sign an affidavit affirming that 100% of grant money received will be applied to their student loan within thirty days of receipt.

MDOT RELEASES NEW TRANSPORTATION MAP

Construction Updates Also Available

The newest edition of the Official Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) map is now available at locations across the state. Produced by MDOT and widely distributed free of charge through Travel Michigan Welcome Centers and MDOT offices, the new edition features a colorful display of photos that reflects the 2006 theme: "Michigan - A State For All Seasons."

View State Map Online:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9622_11033_11151-65571--,00.html

Order a Free State Map:

http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/state_map_mailer/

Check the MDOT website for construction updates:

<http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/LaneClosure/>

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

If you'd like to be removed from this distribution list, simply reply to this e-mail with "remove" in the subject header.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

####

Matthew J. Levin
Legislative Director
Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-7888
mlevin@senate.michigan.gov